

Town of Milton

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Milton Town Council Meeting
Milton Library, 121 Union Street
Monday, March 18, 2019, 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - Councilman M. Cote'
 - Councilman Fleetwood
 - Vice Mayor Kelly
 - Mayor T. Kanakos
 - Councilman Baty
 - Councilman West
3. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda - none
4. Agenda Approval – Motion to approve by Councilman West, second by ViceMayor Kelly. Approved unanimously. Motion carried.
5. Moment of Silence
6. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
7. Public Participation
 - S. Crawford: RE: Chandler St. Since construction began on the new house, there is a steady stream of water across the road and was wondering if there is concern by the Town and if they are thinking of doing anything about it.
 - Mayor Kanakos: There was no problem prior to the basement was dug. Now, they are experiencing flooding in their house and on their property. His thought was that the construction may have done something and asked Mr. Wingo to investigate it.
 - Mr. Wingo replied that they have investigated it and believes it is coming from the situation of the house right next to it. When they dug all around the backlot area, it disturbed it. No dirt there now to filter and it is being addressed.

Bob Byorick, 232 W Shore Dr., Commented on Rails to Trails. His property is adjacent to the Rails to Trails which is in the back of his yard. He agreed with the addition of bushes and trees to block the wind but raised an objection to the use of lights along the trail. Trail should be day-to-dusk trail only. He does not think people should use the trail at night. For security reasons, he plans to install motion lights in his back yard. Finally, spoke on the easement that has been granted along the trail on the same property where the water pipe is supposed to go into Wagramons. If that is true, this access seems to make the remainder of the trail to Lavinia Street unnecessary. People can just enter and exit and go into Town from West Shore Drive right directly to that access in the back. Some people going from that point to Lavinia Street which is basically a dead end. The Town may want to consider how much to develop the trail going to Lavinia Street.

8. Presentation, discussion and possible vote on landscaping and lighting of the Rails to Trails, Phase II project, extending from Federal Street to Lavinia Street

Town Manager K. Rogers: this project has been worked on for 3 years and provided an update on the project. The decisions tonight will focus on lighting. We will then come back to the community with the choices provided to us by Delmarva Power. An overview was presented of the Milton Rails Trails and discussed. Final plans are being worked on. Trail will end at Lavinia Street with bike path and sidewalk. As announced in October, Milton will partner with DE Forestry to determine a plan. Plantings will create a buffer and sound barrier. Many varieties have been designated to be planted. Most of the big trees will be planted on the field side and the smaller ones will be planted on the home side. Plantings will move forward in the Fall. Cannot plant on top of the berm until the construction is completed.

The item of concern is the lighting. It's not the intention to be lit up like a commercial area. The lights will point downward on the trail itself. Installation of the lighting is \$175,000 and this cost is not in the \$1M Transportation alternatives project funding. If we want to install lighting, then the Town needs to find some sort of funding or grants. That is why this is important before we finalize the plan. There are two different light styles. Granville lights which are not the desired light, along the trail will cost approximately \$1,000 per month and the box style light will cost \$600.

More information on the construction schedule will be presented in the Fall. The time frame for construction is between 7:00 am-5:30 pm.

G. Wingo: The shoe box lights would be 100' apart and they are not as close as the other lights. DelDot does not close their trails. They are 24/7. There was a lot of discussion about the lights, but at the end of the day it was about safety. The lighting plans sent to Milton by Delmarva Power were struck down. Different style lights were considered that would shine directly onto the trail which would shoot out 10' at least where the asphalt walkway is and spread out.

Height of the pole lights is 14' and would be set on the house side pointing away from the homes. No light exposure on the properties other than ambient light. The plantings on the home sides would be enough to obscure some of that light illuminating the trail.

Mr. Wingo suggested going ahead with putting the conduits in so that part is completed and ready for lighting of some kind. Delmarva Power will provide the lights. The number of shoebox-style lights on the trail will be 22. Currently discussing with Delmarva about a per fixture cost vs. monthly cost.

Public Comment: Resident from Heritage has lights in front and in the back of their home. Even with blackout curtains, there are places that the light filters through. How much will bollard lights cost per unit? If Town is renting lights from Delmarva, residents will be paying that cost forever. Suggested looking into solar lighting.

Senator E. Lopez was recognized for his contribution to this project.

9. Presentation by the Milton Fire Department Inc. on the construction of an addition and renovations project at the existing fire station located at 116 Front Street
PowerPoint presentation by Ed Ide who attended the meeting to discuss the project. An aerial view of the fire department and the site development plan layout of the existing building was displayed. Construction includes two additions at left and back of building. Relocation of the apparatus bay to include housing antique apparatus as well as opening the lobby space for visitors. There will be an area for men and women if an emergency requires them to stay overnight. Bunk rooms added to the rear, plus a lounge area, shower areas and small fitness area. Second floor consists of a training area, banquet facility, and in the back addition, a multipurpose room, storage, and much-needed office space for line officers and administration and additional meeting space for membership and chief meetings. Construction will begin June 2019 and scheduled to be done in about a year. The budget for the project is \$4M.

A question asked about the current fire house housing the equipment being used. Mr. Hopkins replied that some pieces that are sitting outside are out of service. There is room there for two vehicles and it is like a maze walking through the antique trucks, breathing apparatus, and other spare equipment. No storage room for gear that is piled up. No current plans to purchase anything new. Most of the equipment is in fair shape.

10. Public hearing on behalf of the Milton Fire Department, Inc related to their application for tax-free financing on the construction of an addition and renovations project to the existing fire station located at 116 Front Street
Steve Wright, Shore United Bank, explained the tax-free financing. \$4M commercial mortgage which is 25 yr. repayment fixed for 10 years at 3.68% about 75% of our normal street rate. Federal Reserve determined on square footage by income which is usually

51% of the income of the entity derived for profit operations i.e., renting hall out. If 51% of the hall would be for renting for-profit, the rate would not be valid. It would have to be increased. It was determined that the hall is not rented out at all and is less than 10% of the revenue generated.

Discussion included foreclosure if mortgage not paid, hall rentals, cost of air conditioning/heating passed on to those renting the hall for events and the \$1.2M operating budget for the fire department.

Public Comment: It is Win/Win situation. The fire company does well for the Town and should be backed 100%.

Steve Crawford: Milton Community Foundation totally supports what the fire department is asking. The Foundation holds their annual fundraiser there. Considering the growth spurt, the waiver seems like a very reasonable request and he supports waiving the fee rather than raising property taxes.

Public comment concluded.

Mike, a member of the fire department, spoke about two points. One is the size of the apparatus which has doubled in length and width. At the present time, can hardly walk between them. The second point is that Milton fire department serves the district and assists with Lewes when needed.

Question: If the fire department does not receive the waiver, would that stop the construction? Answer: Would have to build to some degree and may have to curb the project if they do not get the help. Everything discussed is a real need.

11. Discussion and possible vote on the following:

- a. Milton Fire Department, Inc. expansion project and request for building permit waiver
No vote.
- b. Resolution to support Drinking Water Asset Management Grant Application
Councilman West moved to adopt Resoltuion #2019-007 Drinking Water Asset Management Grant Application. Second by Councilman Cote'. Roll call vote.
All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjournment

Councilman West moved to adjourn at 7:36 pm. Second by Councilman Cote'. All in favor.

